

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USSS-00

OPR-02 SY-10 OMB-01 SIL-01 EB-11 LAB-06 COME-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SCA-01 SCS-03 FBO-01 AID-20 OC-06

CCO-00 RSR-01 /137 W

----- 004155

O R 032315Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5103

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: DIALOGUE DEAD? BUS OWNERS JOIN TRUCKERS STRIKE

REF: SANTIAGO 3448

1. SUMMARY. NO PDC REPLY YET TO ALLENDE LETTER ON "DIALOGUE.-
CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION EXISTS THAT POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS HAVE
ENDED. PARTIAL NATIONWIDE BUS STRIKE BEGAN MIDNIGHT AUG 2.
TRUCKERS STRIKE CONTINUES TO BE PUNCTUATED BY FREQUENT BUT SO
FAR RELATIVELY MINOR ACTS OF TERRORISM, WHILE CUT ANNOUNCED
PLANS TO MOBILIZE MEMBERS TO OVERCOME STRIKE. MORE MILITARY
ARMS RAIDS TOOK PLACE. ARMED FORCES HAVE ASSUMED EXPANDED
POLICE POWERS IN VALPARAISO AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. PDC PRES SEN PATRICIO AYLWIN HAS YET TO ISSUE OFFICIAL
REPLY TO ALLENDE LETTER (REFTEL) ALTHOUGH HE HELD LENGTHY MEETING
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EVENING AUG 2 WITH PARTY POLITICAL COMMISSION AND REPORTEDLY

CONTINUED TO HAMMER OUT PDC POSITION TODAY. MOST OF OPPOSITION PRESS, HARPING ON THEME THAT DIALOGUE IS BROKEN DUE TO ALLENDE'S UNRESPONSIVENESS TO PDC DEMANDS (PDC'S LA PRENSA SAYS ALLENDE'S REPLY "UNSATISFACTORY"), WHILE PRO-GOVT PRESS CLAIMING DIALOGUE STILL CONTINUES. TEXT OF JULY 31 AYLWIN TO ALLENDE LETTER, TO WHICH ALLENDE LETTER WAS A REPLY, MADE PUBLIC; IN IT AYLWIN SET OUT PREVIOUS PDC DEMANDS ALONG LINES HIS SPEECH JULY 26 (SANTIAGO 3357).

3. STRIKE OF PRIVATELY-OWNED BUSES AND TAXIS BEGIN IN SANTIAGO AND APPARENTLY THROUGHOUT CHILE MIDNIGHT AUG 2 WHEN GOVT FAILED TO MEET DEMAND OF LAND TRANSPORT CONFEDERATION (RODADO) TO FIRE UNDER SEC TRANSPORTATION JAIME FAIVOVICH (REFTEL). ALTHOUGH SOME INITIAL CONFUSION RESULTED WHEN LEADERS OF BUS OWNERS ASSOCIATION REFUSED TO JOIN STRIKE, RANK-AND-FILE HAVE GENERALLY HONORED STRIKE CALL, AND ONLY A FEW PRIVATE BUSES AND SOME TAXIS ARE OPERATING IN SANTIAGO TODAY. GOVT-OWNED BUSES (ETC) DOING YEOMAN SERVICE, BUT NOTABLY INSUFFICIENT TO MEET CITY'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS.

4. TRUCKERS STRIKE CONTINUES, AND SHORTAGE OF FUELS AND SOME APPARENTLY FOODSTUFFS INCREASING, ALTHOUGH GOVT PETROLEUM ENTERPRISE (ENAP) ISSUED STATEMENT THAT SUPPLIES OF FUELS SUFFICIENT FOR ONE MONTH ARE ON HAND. SOME OUTLYING PROVINCES SUCH AS OSORNO APPARENTLY HARDEST HIT. TERRORIST ACTS CONTINUE. GOVT ANNOUNCED 43 INCIDENTS, MOSTLY INVOLVING DYNAMITE BOMBS ON RAILROAD TRACKS OR DIRECTED AGAINST OPERATING TRUCKS, HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT 48-HOUR PERIOD. RAILROAD SPOKESMAN REPORTED 23 INCIDENTS IN LAST SIX DAYS. ABORTIVE ATTEMPT MADE TO BLOW UP CONCEPCION-PENCO PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PIPELINE, AND TWO HIGHWAY BRIDGES IN OSORNO DAMAGED BY DYNAMITE EXPLOSIONS. SENATE HELD DESULTORY TWO-HOUR DEBATE ON TRUCKERS STRIKE EVENING AUG2.

5. UP PRESS CHARGED FORMER MINAGR ROLANDO CALDERON WAS OBJECT OF UNSUCCESSFUL ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AUG 2. DURING AUG 2 PRESS CONFERENCE, CUT PRES LUIS FIGUEROA ALLEGED CIA INVOLVEMENT IN TRUCKERS, CALLED ON ALL "PATRIOTIC" CITIZENS TO ENROLL FOR VOLUNTARY WORK, AND ANNOUNCED FORMATION OF CUT VIGILANCE COMMITTEES TO PROTECT OPERATING TRUCKS AND PREVENT TERRORIST HARASSMENT. UP STATEMENT CHARGED TRUCKERS ARE TRYING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO INDUCE OTHER GREMIOS TO STRIKE IN AN EFFORT TO RESTAGE LAST OCTOBER'S SHUTDOWN AND THAT THEIR OVERRIDING GOAL IS TO PREVENT FRUITFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN GOVT AND DEMOCRATIC SECTORS OF OPPOSITION. IN FOOTNOTE TO GOVT REQUISITION OF STRIKING TRUCKS IN SAN BERNARDO AREA JULY 31, CORA EXPROPRIATED FAMR ON WHICH TRUCKS HAD BEEN PARKED.

6. ARMED FORCES ACTING UNDER COMMAND OF ADM

JOSE MERINO HAVE ASSUMED POLICE POWERS IN VALPARAISO USUALLY ASSOCIATED WITH STATE OF EMERGENCY, ALTHOUGH NO SUCH CONDITION HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY DECLARED. NAVY UNITS RAIDED VAN BUREN HOSPITAL IN VALPARAISO AUG 2 SEARCHING FOR ILLEGAL WEAPONS. IN SANTIAGO, AIR FORCE STAGED SPECTACULAR SEARCH, INCLUDING USE OF ARMED HELICOPTER, ON COBRE CERRILLOS FACTORY RECENTLY SEIZED BY MIR-LED WORKERS. ARMY ISSUED STATEMENT DEPLORING INVOLVEMENT OF WORKERS FROM VICUNA MACKENNA AND CERRILLOS INDUSTRIAL BELTS IN PARTIAL STRIKE AT ARMY'S FAMAE MUNITIONS FACTORY IN SOUTH SANTIAGO; ARMY STATEMENT ADDED FACTORY WAS BEING KEPT OPEN AND PRODUCTION IS CONTINUING.

7. NO NEW DEVELOPMENT IN ARAYA MURDER CASE. PRES ALLENDE IN MIDDAY PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY REPEATEDLY STRESSED HIS STRONG INTEREST IN PROMPT RESOLUTION OF CASE. SUPREME COURT HAS APPARENTLY YIELDED AND GRANTED NAVY PROSECUTOR EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER INVESTIGATION.
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